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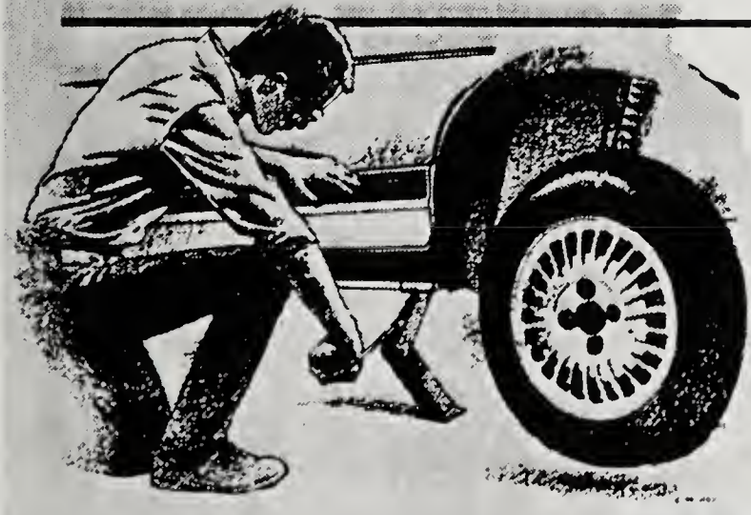
ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

Used Tire Recovery Program

Illinois generates almost one used tire for every person in the state annually.



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Illinois Department of
Energy and Natural Resources

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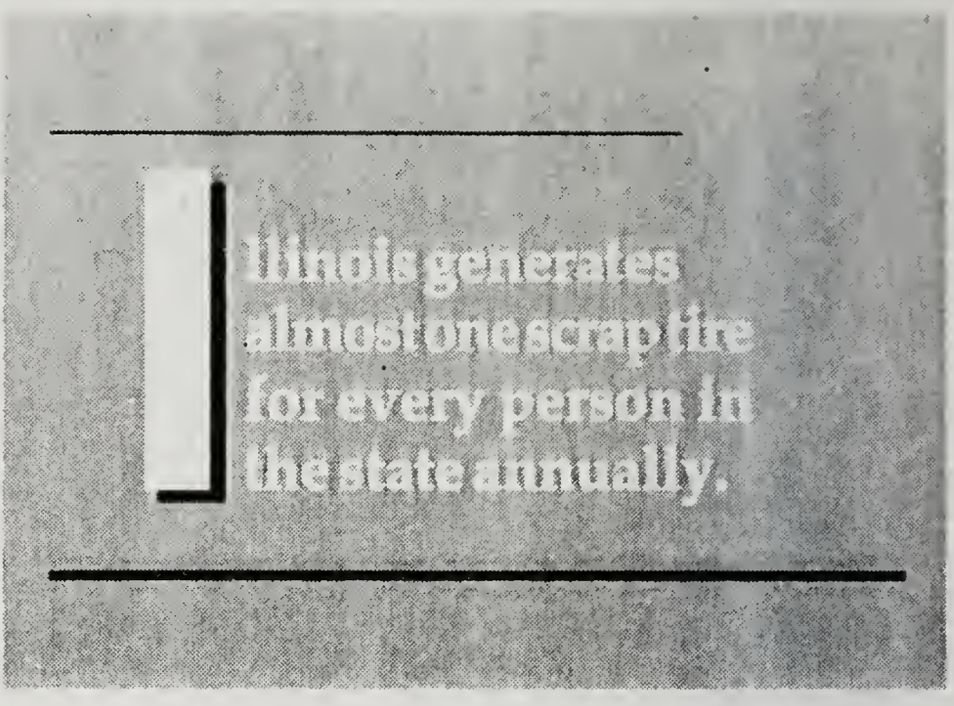


Discarded scrap tires pose a serious health and environmental threat for three main reasons:

- Scrap tires take up increasingly valuable landfill space;
- Open burning of scrap tire piles creates toxic oils and hazardous air emission problems; and
- Scrap tire piles provide an ideal breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes and vermin. Many viruses such as dengue fever, yellow fever and three strains of encephalitis are transmitted by mosquitoes that breed in discarded tires.

As of July 1, 1992 new scrap tire regulations were established in Illinois. New regulations require:

- tire retailers to collect a $1 fee per tire for each tire sold;
- tire retailers to accept from customers one scrap tire for each new tire sold;
- all tire haulers who transport scrap tires within Illinois to be registered with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA); and
- individuals who have over 50 scrap tires accumulated on their property to notify the IEPA.

The money generated by the $1 tire fee is used by the following agencies:

Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources

- The department has completed test burns of tire-derived fuel. The tests have shown that scrap tires can improve air emissions when burned with Illinois coal. As a result, manufacturers, grain processors and utilities in Illinois are burning tire-derived fuel.
- The department has funded projects with Illinois Department of Transportation to test scrap tire-derived crumb rubber in asphalt pavements. Starting in 1994, the federal government is mandating the use of rubber-modified asphalt in Illinois roadways.

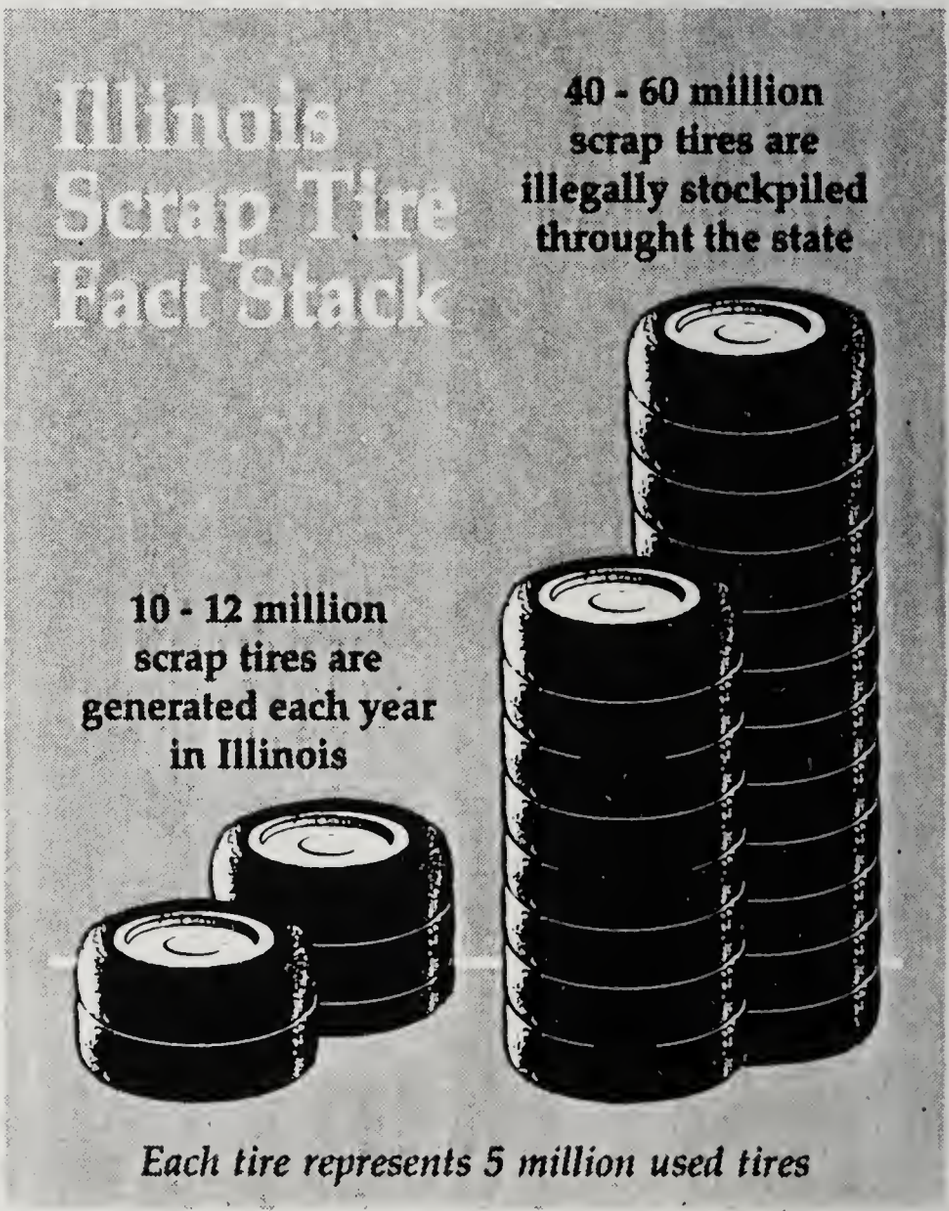
- The department is funding projects to recycle scrap tires into rubber turf for playgrounds, rubber railroad crossings and other tire-derived products.
- The department has funded the development of a tire recycling program involving Illinois Correctional Industries (ICI) and Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS). Scrap tires are collected by ICI inmate workers. Bad tire casings are processed into tire-derived fuel. Good automobile tire casings

are transported to an Illinois company and remanufactured while good truck casings are retreaded at the ICI Centralia facility. The remanufactured tires and truck retreads are purchased by CMS for use on the State of Illinois motor pool and state agency-owned vehicles.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

- The agency sponsors private and county wide scrap tire cleanups through the Consensual Removal Agreement Program. Individuals can call IEPA at 217-782-6760 for information about the removal program.

- The agency has begun initial cleanup steps at the largest scrap tire pile in the state which contains over one million tires. Tires will be shipped to a grain processing facility and burned as tire-derived fuel.



- The agency continually enforces and regulates scrap tire hauling, storage and processing to ensure that tires are not illegally dumped.

Illinois Department of Public Health

The department uses its funds for surveillance of the Asian tiger mosquito and the LaCrosse and St. Louis encephalitis virus. The department also gives grants to local health departments for surveillance and control of the tiger mosquito and other vectors.

Illinois Natural History Survey

Funds are provided to the survey to study tire-breeding mosquitoes and the diseases they spread.

Tires are designed and manufactured to provide thousands of miles of service. With proper maintenance, tires will wear longer, save fuel and help prevent accidents. By following these suggestions, you can obtain the maximum amount of miles from your tires.

- Check the tire inflation pressure at least once a month and before long trips. The recommended inflation pressure is shown on the tire placard attached to the vehicle's door edge. Also, overloading a vehicle can lead to tire failure.

- Inspect tires for irregular wear every month. Uneven wear patterns may be caused by improper inflation pressures, misalignment, improper balance or suspension neglect. Proper inspection and maintenance of the wheels, brakes, shock absorbers, drive train, steering and suspension systems will also ensure good tire mileage.

- Establish good driving habits such as avoiding fast starts, stops and turns. The way you drive can affect the life of your tires.

- Rotate tires regularly (every 6,000 miles) to achieve more uniform wear.
- Check tire pressures frequently during cold weather and never reduce tire pressures to increase traction on snow or ice.
- Consult a local tire dealer for more information on proper tire care.

For more information on scrap tire recycling markets, please call the ENR Information Clearinghouse at 1-800-252-8955. TDD customers may call the Illinois Relay Center at 1-800-526-0844.

ENR *Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources*
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